

To: Rotola, Joe[Rotola.Joe@epa.gov]
From: Mata, Carsen
Sent: Tue 11/14/2017 5:37:40 PM
Subject: FW: Schumer/Niagara hotspot Letter
[Niagara hotspot ltr 10-10-17.pdf](#)

Hi Joe!

I hope all has been well with you, it's been awhile. I'm cringing looking at these dates below, because it seems I've let this one fall through the cracks... Just checking in to see if you by any chance had a draft prepared for this one? I've attached the original incoming just in case you wanted to look at it again.

Thanks

Carsen Mata

Congressional Liaison for NY & NJ

U.S. EPA - Region 2

Public Affairs Division

290 Broadway | 26th Floor

New York, NY 10007

212-637-3652 | mata.carsen@epa.gov

From: Rotola, Joe
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2017 2:37 PM
To: Mata, Carsen <Mata.Carsen@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Schumer/Niagara hotspot Letter

I'll try to work on it. Most of
my staff are working the hurricane response.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 18, 2017, at 1:03 PM, Mata, Carsen <Mata.Carsen@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Joe,

Hope you're doing well! I'm sure you're extremely busy, but I wanted to get this on your radar. I got this letter from Kelsey from Schumer's office last week – it has not come through to the Region yet from HQ – but I think it's safe for us to go ahead and get started on drafting a response.

Would you be able to delegate this to someone on your staff to write a draft, and after you've reviewed and OK'd it – send it up to us by next Friday, 10/27?

It's somewhat unfortunate that we're getting a formal letter, especially since you personally briefed Kelsey on 9/27 on the exact issues outlined in this letter... But such is life I suppose.

Thanks in advance – and if you have any questions please feel free to reach out!

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212-637-3652 | mata.carsen@epa.gov

From: LaFreniere, Kelsey (Schumer) [mailto:Kelsey_LaFreniere@schumer.senate.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2017 12:02 PM
To: Mata, Carsen <Mata.Carsen@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: intro

Hi Carsen—sorry for the delay, but attached is the letter I mentioned in my voicemail yesterday. Will give you a call shortly. Thanks!

From: Mata, Carsen [<mailto:Mata.Carsen@epa.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2017 11:48 AM
To: LaFreniere, Kelsey (Schumer) <Kelsey_LaFreniere@schumer.senate.gov>
Subject: FW: intro

Hi Kelsey!

I hope you're doing well – I called you at around 9am this morning and left a VM. Whenever you get a chance today, would you mind giving me a call to discuss the media inquiry we received this morning?

Thanks so much!

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212-637-3652 | mata.carsen@epa.gov

From: LaFreniere, Kelsey (Schumer) [mailto:Kelsey_LaFreniere@schumer.senate.gov]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:44 AM
To: Mata, Carsen <Mata.Carsen@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: intro

Hi Carsen—thanks for following up. Would either 1:00 or 3:00 on Wednesday work?

From: Mata, Carsen [<mailto:Mata.Carsen@epa.gov>]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:22 AM
To: LaFreniere, Kelsey (Schumer) <Kelsey_LaFreniere@schumer.senate.gov>
Subject: FW: intro

Hi Kelsey!

I hope you had a great weekend – I wanted to touch base and see if you had any availability this Wednesday to go over some of these questions that you had regarding the rad hot spots in Buffalo. I know our program expert is available that day to hop on the phone.

Let me know what you think! Thank you!

Carsen Mata

Congressional Liaison for NY & NJ

U.S. EPA - Region 2

Public Affairs Division

290 Broadway | 26th Floor

New York, NY 10007

212-637-3652 | mata.carsen@epa.gov

From: Mata, Carsen
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:03 PM
To: 'LaFreniere, Kelsey (Schumer)' <Kelsey_LaFreniere@schumer.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: intro

Hi Kelsey!

So sorry for my delay in response here – I reached out to our program folks, and if you're available, I'd like to set up a phone call for next week Wednesday. Do you have some time that day to go through some of your questions with our program experts?

Let me know – as of right now, we are all pretty flexible – so just shoot over some times that work for you!

Thanks, Kelsey!

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Public Affairs Division

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New York, NY 10007

212-637-3652 | mata.carsen@epa.gov

From: LaFreniere, Kelsey (Schumer) [mailto:Kelsey_LaFreniere@schumer.senate.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2017 1:11 PM
To: Mata, Carsen <Mata.Carsen@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: intro

And also—in the article I mentioned, an EPA official indicated that there was no firm date of when or whether EPA would finish the cleanup, and that, “[EPA doesn’t] have the money and they have to figure it out.” You indicated that EPA anticipates returning to the NFB site in spring 2018—did he misspeak or was that decision made after this article ran on August 23?

Thanks!

From: LaFreniere, Kelsey (Schumer)
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2017 11:51 AM
To: 'Mata, Carsen' <Mata.Carsen@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: intro

Thanks, Carsen! A couple questions:

1. What pot of funding is the money for cleanup coming from?
2. Had EPA always planned on taking a break from cleanup at the NFB site? Did EPA run out of money for this work due to cost overruns or another reason?
3. When does EPA anticipate selecting a final plan for cleanup work at the Holy Trinity Cemetery site?
4. When does EPA expect to determine whether the 738 Upper Mountain Road site is eligible for removal? What is the process for determining eligibility?

From: Mata, Carsen [<mailto:Mata.Carsen@epa.gov>]
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 1:28 PM
To: LaFreniere, Kelsey (Schumer) <Kelsey_LaFreniere@schumer.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: intro

Hi Kelsey!

Here's the radiation hot spot information I received from our public information officer. The statement below reflects what activities have taken place at the upstate radioactive sites (prepared 8/17/17):

The first phase of the cleanup project at the Niagara Radiological sites has been concluded, and exposure pathways have been contained. EPA has completed demobilization with the intent of returning to the sites in 2018 for a further cleanup.

EPA activities at the Niagara Falls Boulevard site have been suspended for the time being. Funding to complete all of the work for these types of cleanups, rather than incremental funding, is preferred in order to avoid shutdown and start-up costs, security costs and other maintenance costs that would accrue in between periods of work. Thus, de-mobilization has concluded this week. EPA anticipates returning to the NFB Site for removal work in Spring 2018.

Work at the two other Niagara County radiological sites also is on hold for the time being.

- *At the Holy Trinity Cemetery site, EPA is in the process of finalizing its selection of a final plan on the cleanup work*
- *At the 738 Upper Mountain Road, the EPA is still determining if it is eligible for a removal.*

At the Niagara Falls Boulevard, Holy Trinity Cemetery and 738 Upper Mountain Road sites:

- *We will instruct property owners to inform EPA if any of the existing control measures have been comprised, including:*
 - *Asphalt pavement as a protective shield*
 - *Fencing*
 - *Indications of vandalism*
 - *Utilities work that involves digging in areas of concern*

- *Change in occupancy or use of property*

Exposure Issues: There currently are deterrents in place to minimize exposure to radioactive slag materials:

- *Fences*
- *Pavement*
- *Driveways*
- *At HTC, the radioactive slag is under a road. Exposure may occur if workers dig up the road, thus, EPA will coordinate with local officials and property owners to inform them of potential risks and will periodically monitor the area to observe conditions*
- *Risks posed by the slag may be problematic if they occur over a long period of time*
- *As long as the shielding (asphalt or concrete) is not broken and the fencing remains in place, exposures will be minimized to below that of concern*

Thank you!

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From: LaFreniere, Kelsey (Schumer) [mailto:Kelsey_LaFreniere@schumer.senate.gov]

Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2017 2:04 PM

To: Mata, Carsen <Mata.Carsen@epa.gov>

Subject: intro

Hi Carsen—nice to meet you via phone. My direct is below. I am inquiring about the status of the hot spots in Niagara County—I believe these are the locations:

1. 9700 Niagara Falls Blvd (Bowling Alley & Dry Goods Store Parking Lot)

2. Holy Trinity Cemetery on Lewiston Road (not the area used for burial)

3. Apron to a Residential Driveway

Thanks,

Kelsey

Kelsey LaFreniere

Legislative Aide

Office of Senator Charles E. Schumer

202-224-6384

<Niagara hotspot ltr 10-10-17.pdf>